

Message Text

PAGE 01 CANBER 00437 230812Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 230756Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2402

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0437

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, KN, KF

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: (A) STATE 014411; (B) SEOUL 533 NOTAL; (C) CANBERRA 0379

1. ROK CHARGE GONG CALLED AT EMBASSY TODAY UNDER INSTRUCTIONS WITH SAME ARGUMENTS MADE IN WASHINGTON BY PAK GUN (REFTEL A) ADDING POINT (REFTEL B) THAT ACTION SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEW ROK AMBASSADOR HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH WHITLAM. WE DESCRIBED FOR HIM MULTIPLE US REPRESENTATIONS MADE IN WASHINGTON AND CANBERRA. GONG HAS SPOKEN TO GOA WITH LITTLE SATISFACTION AND IS INSTRUCTED APPROACH ALSO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR AND UK HIGH COMMISSIONER URGING THEIR SUPPORT. GONG UNDERSTANDS JAPANESE HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO GOA REGARDING AUSTRALIAN INTENTIONS BUT WILL URGE RECONSIDERATION. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER SAYS BRITISH REGARD AUSTRALIAN DECISION AS FIRM THOUGH REGRETTABLE, AND ARE NOT LIKELY TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS.

2. ROK ARGUMENT THAT AUSTRALIANS SHOULD PROPOSE EXCHANGE
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OF TRADE MISSIONS AS FIRST STEP IS NOT VERY PERSUASIVE SINCE GOA DID THIS SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND WAS TURNED DOWN ON GROUNDS DPRK WOULD NOT ACCEPT STATUS INFERIOR TO GOK.

3. GONG EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PARK MIGHT REACT VERY FORCEFULLY TO AUSTRALIAN ACTION IN FASHION JEOPARDIZING CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES. GONG SAID PARK WAS PARTICULARLY OFFENDED THAT AUSTRALIANS SHOULD PROCEED WITH RECOGNITION DPRK WHEN SOUTH KOREA WAS UNDERGOING DIFFICULT INTERNAL PROBLEMS. HE UNDERSTANDS AUSTRALIANS INTEND TO PROPOSE RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO GDRP REP IN JAKARTA JANUARY 25.

4. ACTING FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR NORTH ASIA (HANDMER) TOLD EMBOFF THAT AUSTRALIANS ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY DECIDING WHICH OF THEIR AMBASSADORS TO ACCREDIT TO DPRK DUE TO ATTITUDE OF JAPANESE AND SOUTH KOREANS. THEY EVIDENTLY PLAN TO ESTABLISH ONLY VERY LIMITED PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN PYONGYANG.
HARROP

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